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the organized farmer

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No. 6

BABEY SNIFFS FUMES

It is outrageous that people must resort to the law courts to bring attention to a blatant air pollution problem existing in an Alberta Community," states Paul Babey.

While on a speaking tour of Southern Alberta, Mr. Babey was treated to a whiff of the infamous atmosphere South of Pincher Creek, where local farmers have accused a gas plant of fouling the air.

"Last night (February 10) I drove 11 miles South of Pincher Creek purposely because I had been told the fumes were on," Mr. Babey said. "It affected me in a manner that would be similar if I sat in a used vinegar barrel, and pulled the lid down. I think it unfortunate that people have to live under these conditions."

"These people are concerned to the extent they are thinking of starting legal proceedings against the Provincial Government. They want the Government to prove there isn't a problem in the area. They want to place the onus for providing proof on the Government."

"It seems unfortunate that representatives from both the FUA and the people of the district have over the years failed to gain enough sympathy to get something done about the situation."

FUA Wants High Priority On Marketing Act Changes

"I am very interested in the next session of the Legislature. I want to see what solutions are going to be proposed to assist farmers to cope with an impossible situation," Paul Babey Comments.

"In a recent presentation to the Alberta Government, the Farmers' Union spelled out in its brief what that situation is. We stated instability of income, coupled with depressed prices, is the real problem facing our farmers," Mr. Babey quoted.

"We of the FUA feel that concern for that section of the community accounting for 25% of the province's economy, and the livelihood of a substantial number of Alberta citizens is, and should be a proper consideration of the Provincial Government."

"In this regard," Mr. Paul Babey continued, "The proposed changes in the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, including changes to voting procedures, must have high priority. These changes will open the way for improvements to methods of marketing agricultural products. We must move in this direction if farmers are to face the future with confidence," he concluded.

PRICES CONCERN FARMERS

On a swing through Southern Alberta for a series of speaking engagements, the president of the Farmers' Union of Alberta received many expressions of concern from large audiences about dropping farm prices.

"A capacity crowd in Pincher Creek the evening of February 10th was very concerned about recent cuts in wheat prices," Mr. Babey reported. "Wheat farmers say their margin between returns and costs of production is already too small."

They feel it is unfair that of all member countries of the International Wheat Agreement, only Canada does not subsidize its wheat producers. This means in effect, that Canadian producers must compete with the government treasuries of these other countries as well as the other producers.

Act Criticized

Voting procedures under the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Act also came in for a share of criticism. Mr. Babey says his



GREETINGS: U.F.A. Co-op Ltd. President George Sayle extends a warm hand to members of the F.U.A. Membership Tour February 8 in his office. The tour got underway in Calgary with a guided tour of U.F.A. Co-op facilities. Left to right: Mrs. Ralph Hickie of Rose Lynn; Mr. and Mrs. E. Jensen from Standard; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gross of Craigmyle; and Mrs. and Mr. C. J. Versluys from Champion. Mr. Versluys was tour leader this year.

MORE MARKET RESEARCH NEEDED

"Agricultural research, most of it Government sponsored, and the application of the new technology in modern methods of production

have been successful in increasing farm output, and this has placed extra strain on traditional marketing methods," states FUA President Paul Babey in a news release last week.

"Unfortunately," says Mr. Babey, "farmers have not been able to retain for themselves a significant amount of the savings and benefits made possible by their use of modern production methods". Most of the savings are passed on to the consumer, because our marketing procedures are unable to retain these for the farm people," he said.

"Farmers and farm organizations are seeking increased assistance for Agriculture from government," Mr. Babey continued. He pointed out that the budget of the Alberta Department of Agriculture is only about 1-1/2% of total government expenditures, and he commented that this seemed pitifully small compared to the contribution that agriculture is

SORRY! NO COOK BOOKS

Five thousand more cook books are being printed but it will be March 15 before these are available. Five hundred will be hard covered and will be more expensive, about \$2.75 each.

Since the F.W.U.A. first published the cook book in 1952 we have sold 65,000 copies. We will soon have 70,000 in circulation.

audiences agreed that procedures under the present act are unfair.

The F.U.A., along with other Alberta farm organizations, is campaigning to have these regulations changed, so that in future marketing board plebiscites, a clear majority of the votes cast will determine whether or not the proposed plan is to be used. At present, voting requirements call for a majority of all eligible producers, whether they vote or not, before any proposal drafted under the act can pass.

Pacific North-west Won't Forget Our Tourists

"The Pacific North-west won't forget the 1965 F.U.A. Membership Tour." So reads a brief note from a travel agent in Portland, Oregon who assisted with tour arrangements in that area. He says nothing more!

Whatever else the travel agent might have said, he needed no further comment to arouse the interest of those in FUA Central Office. A quick quote from one staff member, "Something must

have happened. I wonder what."

It was late in the afternoon Wednesday, February 17 when the 43 member tour returned to Alberta. The northern group reached Edmonton about 10:30 p.m. The group had spent nine days travelling. They had visited several towns and cities, of which the main ones were Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland.

Travelling expenses and hotel accommodations were paid by the UFA Co-operative Ltd. Individual visits to local co-operative establishments were courtesy of the hosts in each case.

The tour departed from Calgary in the afternoon of February 8. The early arrivals in Calgary were treated to a tour of the UFA Coop Ltd. building in Calgary. They were greeted by President George Sayle, and taken in tow by public relations officer Dean Lien.

UFA Office

The Calgary office is concerned with members record keeping, dividend computation, data processing, and management of the entire province-wide UFA operation. FUA people treated to a look into intricate IBM equipment marvelled at the amount of detail which needs looking after in an operation of this size. Last year, UFA Co-op Ltd. had sales of over 21 million dollars. UFA returned in cash to its members last year more than 1.3 million dollars.

On February 9, the group paid a visit to the Vancouver offices of Co-op Insurance Services. In the afternoon, the tour members (each one chosen for his good work in the 1964 membership drive) were guests of the Alberta Wheat Pool for a harbour cruise.

Next day, the group visited grain terminals as guests of the Wheat Pool and of United Grain Growers.

After an all-day train ride, the FUA Membership Tour arrived at Union Station in Portland, Oregon. They got aboard chartered busses next day at 8:30 in the morning for a trip to Battleground, Washington. This trip included a visit to the large Dairy Co-op. During the afternoon return trip, the group stopped at Dundee to take a look at a Nut Growers' Co-operative plant. The tour stayed overnight in McMinnville, and next day stopped to see the Farmers' Co-operative Oil facilities.

On February 14, they visited Salem, Oregon. Part of their time was spent on the very beautiful campus of Willamette University. Next day, they returned to Portland before going on to Seattle and then home again.

It will be a real shame, several Central Office people are saying, PACIFIC NORTHWEST . . .

(Continued on page 3)

Egg Stability Producer Goal

Commercial egg producers in the Edmonton area presented a constitution and by-laws for the newly formed Alberta Commercial Egg Producers Association at a meeting in Red Deer on February 17th. Mr. Robert Huff of Edmonton has become the Association's first President.

The purpose of the Association will be to increase the margin of profits to producers by helping to stabilize the market. Without a centralized distribution system one producer is competing with another. The Association will either aim to establish a two price egg system, one for processing eggs and another for table eggs, or form an egg marketing board.

Formation of an egg marketing board received strong support at a Poultry Federation meeting in Edmonton last month when representatives voted unanimously for a Commercial Egg producers Association.

Alberta Poultry Commissioner R. H. McMillan told the meeting he would send out marketing board information to Association committee members so that they could discuss it before the February 17th meeting in Red Deer.

making to the provincial economy each year.

"The time is now opportune," Mr. Babey stressed, "for increased spending by the Department of Agriculture, especially in the area of agricultural products marketing research. We believe that such research would increase returns to farmers by means of improved marketing methods."



GOOD LUCK: U.F.A. General Manager Bill McCartney says goodbye to Mike Pfah (left) of Fairview just before he joins with the other members of the tour aboard "The Canadian" standing at the Calgary platform. Looking on is U.F.A. Co-op president George Sayle. Cornie Versluys called back to Mr. Sayle, "We'll tell you how we spent your money when we come back."

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

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the organized farmer

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Farmers Parliament

By James R. McFall, Secretary,
Alberta Federation of Agriculture

Let's take a close look at some of the policy decisions of the 29th annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture held in Regina, Janury, 26th, 27th and 28th.

Over 200 representatives of farm organizations and visitors were in attendance when the directors and delegates (about 80) attacked a lengthy and varied meeting agenda.

The end result was that this was looked upon as a good meeting. Appreciation was expressed from many quarters for the calibre of the discussion, for the willingness to view controversial issues on the basis of fact and not bias, and for the determination to reach constructive decisions.

There was also a real undertone of concern regarding the economic position of farmers and the farm economy generally. This fact possibly served as an added incentive to come to grips with the problems.

President's Views

Undoubtedly, all delegates and directors appreciated the situations, but Mr. J. M. Bentley's remarks during his presidential address brought things into sharp focus when he stated:

"The C.F.A. memorandum on farmer's income position, graphically illustrates the situation that faces the average Canadian farmer. Comparing the year 1949 with 1963 we find that the average realized net farm income per farm operator, in constant dollars, went up by only 7.8% while the average weekly manufacturing wages went up by 42.8% during the same period.

"These figures clearly show that farmers are failing to share as they should in a growing, increasingly affluent Canadian society. All of this has happened in spite of the fact that many farmers have been investing more money by modernizing and that they are 40% fewer in numbers today than in 1949."

ARDA vs Poverty

The picture was sharpened still further when Honorable Maurice Sauve, Minister of Forestry and Minister in charge of ARDA addressed the meeting. His topic entitled "What is Rural Poverty?" brought many points of imbalance as between agriculture and our economy generally. However, the essence of his talk was how he

hoped that ARDA could improve conditions where this imbalance was most acute.

He reported that agreement had been reached on the terms for a new general ARDA agreement that will, if ratified by all governments concerned, govern the operations of ARDA until 1970. The basic differences as between the old and new ARDA agreements were listed as:

- Duration of five years instead of two and a half years.

- Maximum federal expenditures of \$25 million a year, instead of \$20 million a year, making a total federal contribution of \$125 million instead of \$50 million, to be matched about equally by other provinces.

- The establishment of a special fund for rural economic development by the federal government whereby a maximum of \$50 million, in addition to the \$125 million total of annual federal contributions, may be spent on comprehensive development programs in areas that are especially designated.

- A voluntary new system for the administration of joint ARDA projects, whereby the federal government will examine provincial ARDA programs on a year-by-year basis, instead of examining every project individually as was done under the first agreement.

- In provinces that desire it, the inclusion of Indian lands and Indian people within the purview of the ARDA program.

- A new emphasis on the alleviation of poverty in rural areas by means of a global approach to resource development, embracing all the resources of disadvantaged rural areas in an effort to provide new income and employment opportunities and raise standards of living.

Resolutions

It was possibly this background that strengthened the desire and determination of the directors and delegates to face up to their responsibilities on behalf of the farm organizations represented.

The resolutions dealt with, were divided into sections and covered the many production, economic and

CIS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meetings of CIS Ltd., Co-operative Life Insurance Company and Co-operative Fire and Casualty Company will be held in the Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina, Saskatchewan on Wednesday, March 3, 1965.

CO-OP LIFE CO-OP FIRE

social interests of farm people. This report will deal with a few major issues that involved differences of opinions, and or, changes in policy or new policy.

Eggs and Poultry:
Support was given to requests for—

- A commission to investigate egg pricing and related factors.

- Deficiency payments on eggs on a regional and quarterly basis.

- Control of imports of eggs.

Livestock:

Support was expressed for the programs and policies to improve quality, economics of production and expanded markets of livestock products.

Grain:

Support and confidence was expressed regarding:

- International Wheat Agreement.

- The Canadian Wheat Board and its sale policy and quota regulations.

- Subsidy for wheat exports.

The question of a subsidy for wheat sold in the export market arose at the time of the meeting because of the reduction of world grain prices. This reduction did not affect producers in many other countries where governments were providing a subsidy, but did have direct effect on the income of Canadian wheat producers.

The whole question of feed grains and feed freight assistance was based on a lengthy resolution from eastern provinces. It contained statements based on misunderstanding and misinformation. After these points were cleared up the end result was support for a federal grain agency designed to administer the feed freight assistance policy so that assistance would be provided equitably to eastern provinces and B.C. The conference also agreed that the agency under extreme conditions may be required to serve as a

purchasing board.

Dairying:

The dairy resolutions and policy statements are first dealt with by the Dairy Farmers of Canada annual meeting which precedes the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, where they are again considered in relation to all branches of agriculture.

The basic point here is that the dairy industry in the interest of all producers is asking that all milk for manufacturing purposes should have a minimum price of \$3.50 per hundred weight for 3.5% milk f.o.b. the factories. It was considered that such a program would provide minimum returns to the producer and would provide continuity of supply to the respective branches of manufacturing. The conference also went on record for a comprehensive nation-wide school milk program.

Farm Labor:

The conference supported compulsory unemployment insurance for farm labor. This is a change of policy from previous years when it was felt that compulsory insurance was not practical and that best results could be obtained by applying insurance to specific groups of labor. There was some indecision on this question; some direct farmer comment would be helpful.

Farm Income:

There were many general resolutions designed to improve the farm income position. Requests being made for:

- More work in marketing studies and research;

- More work on cost of production of studies.

- Marketing information published on a monthly basis providing prices on all farm commodities for all regions in one consolidated document.

International Policy:

The delegates all appreciated

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the fact that trade with foreign countries is very important to the welfare of Canadian producers and so through various resolutions expressed the stand that this trade should be as free as possible from import restrictions.

At the same time it was realized that from time to time the Canadian producer was placed in a difficult position because of imports that provided unfair competition. To meet such situations it was agreed that commodity agreements should be negotiated each year designed to provide a fair trade relationship.

The conference gave full support to the World Food Program as a means of assisting developing countries, that this program be on an enlarged and continuing basis.

Financial:

Continuing support was expressed for the establishment of interest free loans to meet disaster conditions and also for amendments to the bankruptcy act so that farm produce will not be used as collateral for other creditors in case of bankruptcy.

Social Welfare:

The national health services plan as outlined by the Hall Commission received strong endorsement with the request that it be implemented as soon as practical.

The stand taken by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in previous submissions related to a National Pension Plan were re-endorsed, namely: That consideration be given to the status of farmers in the implementation of a universal pension program, so that they will be in a position to enjoy decent living conditions upon retirement.

(Continued from page 1)

if the Locals in the various sub-districts don't find out why it is that "the Pacific Northwest is not going to soon forget the FUA Membership Tour." And the membership committee for next year, which will be headed by Harry Gordon of Rose Lynn by the way, will be wondering if he dares to send another tour into the same area.

F.W.U.A. STUDY FOR MARCH

Up-To-Date Information on Cancer

By Mrs. W. H. Freadrich

Today one out of every three persons with cancer is cured—177,000 people each year. However, 88,000 cancer patients died needless of cancer in 1963. Needless because earlier and improved methods of diagnosis and treatment, which could have saved more lives was not given an opportunity to do so.

Throughout the years, a steady rise in both the incidence of, and the death rate from cancer has been evident. In 1935 the number of deaths from cancer per 100,000 was 108; in 1960 the number was 148. In 1963 about 280,000 people died of cancer and slightly more than one half million cases were diagnosed. As a cause of death, cancer is second only to cardio-vascular diseases.

Factors in this increase in cancer include the tremendous growth in population, the lengthening of life expectancy, better methods of diagnosis and treatment. Cancer is predominantly a disease of persons beyond the age of 45 years of age. About 2½ times as many persons per 100,000 population die of cancer today in 1960.

The first and most important need is for adequate and easily available medical attention — including facilities for early detection, prompt diagnosis, and treatment of the disease.

Periodic examinations of all persons, and especially those of middle age and older, is one of the best methods of finding cancer while it is in a stage that is compatible with cure.

Cancer detection is a joint responsibility of the public and the medical profession. The patient must seek early and regular medical care, and the physician must be on the alert for early cancer and find it in the routine care of the patient. The cancer examination is a part of the regular

practice of medicine, and to assure optimum patient care and maintain the important physician-patient relationship.

Diagnosis

The American Cancer Society sponsors a program of "Every Doctor's office a Cancer detection centre." The family physician, in addition to finding early cases of cancer, can best provide proper continuity of treatment and follow-up for the cancer patient.

The probable predisposing causes of cancer can be classified into the following:

1. A condition of long continued continuous irritation: this could include epithelioma (membrane) of the skin from extensive and frequent exposure to sunlight, occurring for example in agricultural workers or seamen. Cancer of the lip — secondary to the heated pipe stem of smokers, etc.

2. Cancer due to exposure to specific agents — this would include cancer of the lungs and larynx due to cigarette smoking. Cancer of the bone, among radium luminous dial painters. Cancer of the skin among asphalt workers, cancer of the lungs among chromate, uranium and arsenic workers and skin and soft tissue cancer secondary to the prolonged exposure to X-ray irradiation (may result in cancer many years after the exposure.)

The diagnosis of cancer depends primarily upon a careful, intelligent analysis of the patient

history. Frequently a tentative diagnosis of cancer can be made from the history alone. Because certain deep lying cancers can be suspected only through the medical history, it is as important to take a complete history as it is to examine the patient. For instance there are no early signs or visible evidence of the disease in a patient with very early cancer of the stomach.

Treatment

The three basic methods of treatment for cancer are (1) Surgery (2) Radiation therapy and (3) Chemotherapy.

These methods may be used sing-

ly or in combination. They are not competitive. Among the more important achievements in cancer therapy in recent years has been a definition of which form of is most helpful for various types of cancer. Surgery and/or radiation can cure cancer. Chemotherapy has contributed to the palliative care of cancer patients but so far has not been curative in the true sense of the word.

Cancer is a feared disease, bringing with it a host of psychological problems. Medical personnel working with cancer patients and their families are met with an unusual challenge, and often find it difficult to view cancer objectively. As for the patient, the individual who feels secure in life, particularly in his relationship with others, who faces reality objectively and courageously and who meets his problems with a sense of responsibility and independence will probably handle cancer with these same qualities.



INSIDE U.F.A. CO-OP: Dave MacDonald of the U.F.A. Co-op Data Processing Centre at U.F.A. Head Office in Calgary operates a card sorter for intrigued F.U.A. Tour members. On February 8, several members of the tour were able to get a close look at some of the complex operations used for members' accounting and keeping track of records. More than 1.8 million cards are used in U.F.A.'s Dividend and Data Processing each year.

Ontario Broiler Producers To Vote on Marketing Plan

Broiler producers of Ontario will have an opportunity to express an opinion as to the advisability of setting up a broiler marketing plan.

Following a meeting of the Ontario Broiler Growers' Association in Guelph last week, which voted in favor of a plan. It has been arranged for producers to express their opinion by secret ballot on adoption of the proposal on March 23, 24, and 25. Growers will be able to cast ballots on any one of three days at the office of the Agricultural Representative in their community.

Provisions in the proposed broiler plan would provide for the election of a Producer Board to administer the regulations; permit the licensing of all producers by the Producer Board, and the licensing of processors by the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board.

Under the plan, authority would be granted to fix the license fees to be paid by producers up to one-tenth of a cent per pound of live weight on broilers sold to processors. There would also be power to establish quotas as recommended by the Broiler Chicken Industry Quota Advisory Committee.

The proposed plan also provides authority to negotiate or arbitrate weekly broiler chicken prices and to negotiate terms and forms of agreement.

A vote of 66 2/3 percent of those producers casting ballots will be necessary to provide for implementation of the plan.

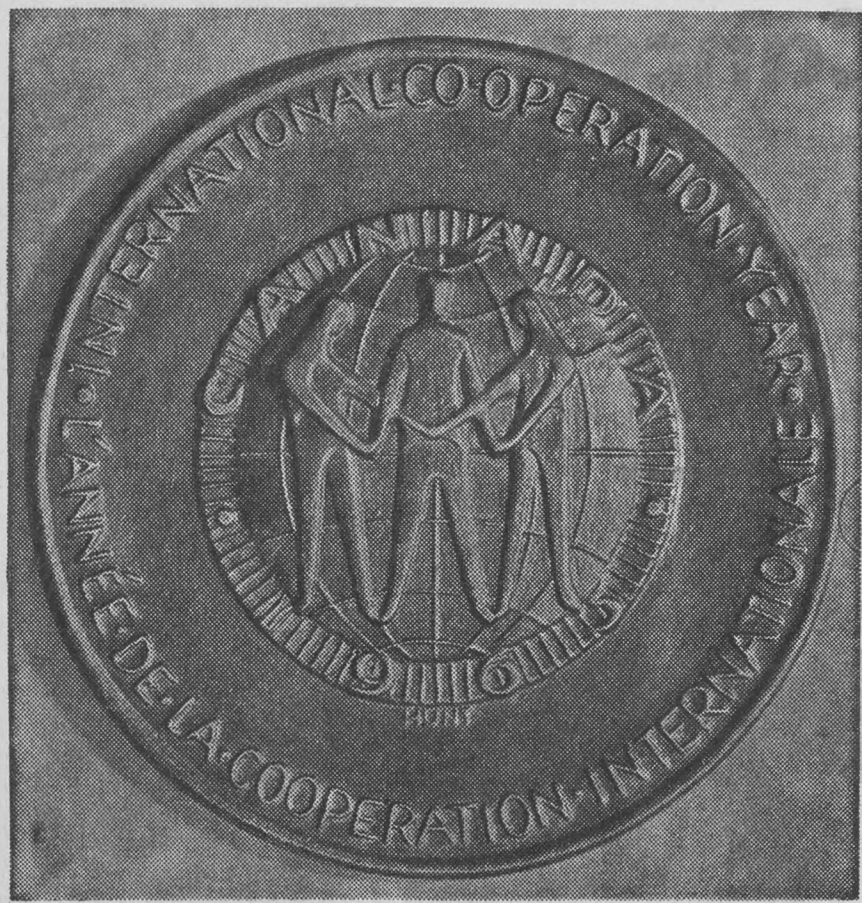
Broiler producers, and egg producers in Alberta have set up associations to represent their interests. Both organizations are considering attempts to set up marketing boards for their products. Both are waiting to see what action is taken on changes to the Agricultural Products Marketing Act during the current session of the Alberta Legislature.

Will Alberta producers be allowed to use the Ontario approach to marketing plebiscites? Will our producers be allowed to set up marketing boards if the majority of those who vote are in favour? Or will they continue to be faced with the need for 51% of all those eligible—a rule found only in Alberta?

Will your MLA's ignore your letters?

CANADA MARKS INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE YEAR

Canada's medallion for ICY



Editorial . . .

SUBSIDIES AND FINAL PAYMENTS

A recent headline in one of our daily papers states "No Word on Subsidies—Predict Substantial Final Payment."

Let us not confuse the two. The final payment is on grain delivered by the producers to the elevators prior to July 31st, 1964. Costs in connection with producing this grain began as far back as the summer of 1962 with the summer-fallowing done that year in preparation for the 1963 crop.

The farmers are not complaining about this final payment. But remember, this is a delayed portion of their 1963-64 crop returns.

Since that time however, costs of production have been steadily rising and the producer is struggling for existence, due to the cost price squeeze. The recent price cuts by the Canadian Wheat Board are placing further pressure on an already too small margin.

These price cuts may not show up until the final payment for the 1964-65 crop early in 1966. However, these reductions will most likely show up again in a smaller initial payment of the new crop year, thus leaving the farmer short of cash to pay operating expenses.

We cannot escape the truth of this economic picture. Whether of average size, or larger or smaller, agricultural production units must have the assurance of higher returns.

Until now, the Canadian agricultural industry has operated with a far smaller degree of national support than has been enjoyed by most other industries. That it has been able to compete at all in the hot-house Canadian economy, from the other side of the glass, speaks well for the efficiency of producers.

But the international story is different. Canada should not expect her farmers to continue in direct competition with the treasuries of other countries. Has not the time come when Canada must begin a proper subsidy program for agriculture?

Subsidization is not a one-way street. What is good for one industry should also work for another.

—D. G.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OBSERVED ON CAMPUS

Varsity Guest Weekend 1965 at the University of Alberta February 18, 19, and 20 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Agriculture. Celebrations during the weekend drew agriculture alumni to the campus from all parts of Canada and abroad.

Since its humble beginnings in 1915 with 16 students and two faculty members to its present student enrolment of 250 with 38 full-time academic staff members, the Faculty of Agriculture has had a distinguished history. Approximately 1200 agriculture graduates are now to be found on every continent, representing the product of Faculty's most obvious and well-known activity—teaching. However, less than 30% of the Faculty's effort is devoted to teaching. Research and extension work which constitute the rest of its efforts are most valuable to the province and nation.

Dr. C. F. Bentley, Dean of the Faculty recently stated that "The Faculty of Agriculture has made tremendously important contributions to the agriculture industry by virtue of the application of its discoveries and developments . . .

The students of the Faculty of Agriculture have been credited with initiating Varsity Guest Weekend—an annual three day during which the doors of the University of Alberta are open to the public. It is therefore most appropriate that its 50th Anniversary celebrations were focused on V.G.W., 1965. Beginning with the Alumni Homecoming Banquet and Ball, the celebrations included class reunions, Faculty displays, tours, and Alumni Luncheon, and a reception for the Gold and Silver classes at the home of President and Mrs. Walter H. Johns.

Words of the late Prime Minister Nehru of India, spoken to the United Nations General Assembly in November 1961, have become the unofficial slogan for International Co-operation Year. Said Mr. Nehru, "The world depends on co-operation, not on conflict."

February is Economic Development Month of ICY. Projects and development proposals for the emerging nations of the world are each receiving publicity and gaining new support during this period. In March, Science and Technology will receive the spotlight. In April, Health; in May, Communications and Transport; in June, Education, Law and Culture. Tourism and Sports are highlighted during July and August. September is to be Children's Month. Human Rights month is to be October (United Nations Day—October 24) and November is to feature Food Production.

ICY is a period of time marked out for a supreme effort which must be made to tell the world that future peace and progress depend on co-operation. All types of co-operation, in every sphere of human activity, is to be given scope for expression.

First, ICY is to show the areas of cooperation that already exist. Second, the Co-operation Year will help stimulate higher levels of co-operation by encouraging groups and organizations never before involved to initiate international activities.

The "Co-op Consumer" says that already over 50 national and

provincial organizations in Canada have pledged ICY projects—ranging from the Catholic Women's League assistance to the Coady International Institute at Antigonish, Nova Scotia, to the B.C. Credit Union League's participation in co-op training in Rajasthan, India.

Farm Chemical Schools Set

A series of one-day agricultural chemical schools will be taking place in various parts of Alberta from now until early April.

The schools, sponsored by the provincial Department of Agriculture through local officials and agricultural service boards, are primarily designed to inform chemical dealers and agents of the latest developments in agricultural chemicals. However, farmers are also invited to attend.

Discussions will cover a variety of chemicals used in both field crop and livestock production.

Chemicals agricultural schools are scheduled for the following places and dates.

Edmonton (Feb. 18), Wainwright (March 2), Vegreville (March 3), Calgary (March 5), Castor (March 16), Three Hills (March 17), Ponoka (March 18), High Prairie (April 7), and Athabasca (April 9).

Farmers who would like further details on these schools should contact their district agriculturist.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Convention Observed Total Farm Situation

By Mrs. Russell Johnston, F.W.U.A. President

James Bentley in his presidential address to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture convention said, "It is important that we seriously look for new and improved ways and means of increasing the incomes of disadvantaged farmers." The C.F.A. annual convention in Regina did just that!

Guest speakers enabled the delegates to observe the total farm situation and at the same time to keep in mind the "disadvantaged farmer." Dr. Deutsch, chairman of the Economic Council of Canada spoke of the three major problems in agriculture, (1) the relatively lower level of education among farm people than in other sectors of the economy, (2) difficulties in gaining access to credit, (3) the continuation of "too many small farms."

Hon. Maurice Sauve in discussing rural poverty said 22% of Canada's farm families had an income of less than \$2500 plus less than 25 days a year off-farm work, while 43% of rural non-farm families had an annual income of less than \$3,000. Mr. Sorel of Quebec, 1st vice-president of C.F.A. referred to these people as—"those who are sick."

Mr. Harold Horner, deputy minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan illustrated the position of the farmers in Western Canada, by outlining in terms of annual income of \$2500, the number of acres required for wheat on a half summerfallow basis, the number of cattle required on a cow-calf operation or steers in feed lot and the numbers of hogs, sheep, poultry, etc. This enabled all of us to understand why 20% of our western farmers are "disadvantaged."

Feed Grains

When we discussed thoroughly the resolution on feed grains asking the federal government to 'create a feed grains agency for the Eastern Provinces and B.C.' we in the West understood more fully the difficulties of the Eastern farmer and why 29% of farm families in Quebec and 33% in the Maritimes are 'disadvantaged farmers.'

The documentation which is done by the C.F.A. office in preparation

for the convention is indeed valuable. For example, two briefly worded resolutions which passed in the C.F.A. convention originated in the F.W.U.A. They asked for a speedy implementation of a comprehensive medical plan care plan for Canada and the development of facilities for training adequate personnel to man a health plan. The office prepared an excellent document outlining the finding of the Hall Commission and stating C.F.A. past policy on health which was also adopted by the convention.

Nearly 100 resolutions were brought forward dealing with poultry, livestock, grain dairying, and farm income position, international trade, taxation, freight rates, labor, educational and social

Rats . . .

. . . Rats

J. B. Gurba, Alberta's Supervisor of Crop Protection and Pest Control, reports that 216 premises were infested with Norway rats last year compared to 70 in 1963. Despite this three-fold increase, all infestations were exterminated by the end of 1964 except 18 which are being mopped up as weather and road conditions permit.

Mr. Gurba says the greatest rat invasion pressure was felt in the County of Vermilion River and in the M. D. of Provost. Special efforts where necessary in these districts to bring the situation under control. Too much dependence on Saskatchewan's new control program which had not yet been completely organized was probably responsible for the difficulties encountered in these areas. The lesson is clear, says Mr. Gurba. Our success in keeping Alberta free of rats since 1950 could easily be wrecked by too much complacency

CANADA'S I.C.Y. MEDALS

To mark this year, the Executive Committee of International Co-operation Year in Canada has had a bronze medal struck.

It is designed by Toronto artist Dora de Pedery Hunt. One form of the medal is 1½ inches in diameter and depicts three figures, hands clasped in friendship, against the background of the world.

Around the perimeter of the medal are the words International Co-operation Year in French and English.

You may want to buy one of these medals, not only because of its unique quality as a collector's item, but as a symbol of your belief that, in the words of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, "the world depends on co-operation and not conflict."

Prices for Medals and Medallions:

Copper \$2 each
Silver \$10 each
Large Bronze .. \$100 each
UN Medals are also available.

Order from:
International Co-operation Year (Canada),
Suite 517, Daly Building,
Ottawa 2, Ontario.

policies, farm supplies and equipment.

Price Falls

While C.F.A. was in convention the price of Canadian export wheat dropped. As a result, the following resolution passed unanimously.

WHEREAS Canadian wheat producers are the only major wheat producers in the world without government price support. Therefore BE IT RESOLVED that the C.F.A. urge the government of Canada to subsidize wheat exports to the extent necessary to prevent the Canadian producer in the position of having to compete with the treasuries of other countries.

The convention adopted a statement strongly recommending the continuation and expansion of the 'World Food Program'—the United Nations program for multilateral food aid as an integral part of economic development in the developing countries. Another resolution asked that the Canadian government establish diplomatic relations with China.

Farm women had six representatives and a number of visitors. They took their place and responsibility as part of C.F.A. Mrs. D. Burton, president of Manitoba W.I. was elected Western Women's representative.

Vegetables ARDA Study

Agricultural Minister Harry Strom has announced the approval of an ARDA project to study the economic feasibility of a fresh vegetable industry in Alberta.

Mr. Strom said the study will consolidate all the known data on vegetable production, processing and marketing in the province and collect any extra data that is needed to fill the gaps. It will take 18 months to two years to complete the results which will be used by growers, commercial organizations and the government in future planning related to vegetable production.

The project leader for the study will be Mr. Ken Porter of the Farm Economics Branch who has conducted several production research studies on fresh vegetable production in Alberta. He will co-operate with the marketing section of the Farm Economics Branch, the Field Crops Branch and the Department of Industry and Development.